

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN KEITH BALES**, on January 6, 2003 at 3 P.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Keith Bales, Chairman (R)
Sen. Dale Mahlum, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D)
Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R)
Sen. Walter McNutt (R)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
Sen. Gerald Pease (D)
Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)
Sen. Mike Taylor (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Jennifer Stephens, Committee Secretary
Doug Sternberg, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:
Informational Meeting

SEN. BALES brought the meeting to order and asked the committee secretary to read the roll call. All senator in the committee were present.

SEN. BALES explained there may be times when a senator would not be able to attend a certain hearing. Despite their absence, some senators might want to cast a vote on bills discussed during the meeting. Traditionally, in order to do this, the senator would have to fill out a proxy form and give it to the committee chairman prior to the hearing.

SEN. BALES asked the committee what kind of proxy sheets they should use. He made note that there was a standard proxy form in the senate word processing office.

SEN. TAYLOR said the standard proxy form would work just fine.

SEN. NELSON remarked that she found the standard proxy form too cumbersome. She explained that if she was too busy to attend a scheduled hearing, she would probably be too busy to fill out a lengthy proxy sheet. She suggested that a handwritten note with a signature would be easier for her than the standard proxy sheet.

SEN. BALES announced that it was the decision of the committee to make use of either the standard proxy sheet or a handwritten note to notify the committee how an absent senator would like to vote. The committee also agreed that a filled-out proxy sheet or handwritten note could be given to the chairman, the secretary, or another committee member that would be attending the hearing.

SEN. BALES also noted that in many of the upcoming meetings, it would be possible for a bill to go into executive action on the same day of its first hearing, especially if the bill had few or no opponents. It was the consensus of the group that it was possible for bills to go to executive action on the same day of their first hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:30 P.M.

SEN. KEITH BALES, Chairman

JENNIFER STEPHENS, Secretary

KB/JS